

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ROME 03867 211242Z

46

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

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R 211225Z MAR 74
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3841

S E C R E T ROME 3867

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, IT, YO
SUBJECT: ITALO-YUGOSLAV DISPUTE OVER ZONE B

REF: ROME 3845

1. DURING BRIEFING BY FONOFF SOURCE ON BACKGROUND AND CURRENT STATUS OF LATEST DISPUTE BETWEEN ROME AND BELGRADE OVER ZONE B ISSUE (REFTEL), SOURCE NOTED THAT HIGHLY SECRET TALKS AIMED AT PERMANENT SOLUTION OF PROBLEM HAD COME TO DEAD STANDSTILL IN DECEMBER. AS WE HAVE REPORTED PREVIOUSLY, REASON FOR IMPASSE, IN ITALIAN EYES, WAS CONTINUING YUGOSLAV REFUSAL TO COUNTENANCE EVEN MINOR BORDER RECTIFICATIONS OR OTHER CONCESSIONS, WHICH WOULD PROVIDE GOI WITH ATTRACTIVE PACKAGE TO SELL TO ITALIAN PUBLIC AND POLITICAL PARTIES. THIS WAS MINIMUM CONDITION POSED BY FARNESSINA NEGOTIATOR MILESI FERRETTI TO CONTINUE NEGOTIATIONS. FOLLOWING MILESI FERRETTI'S DEPARTURE IN JANUARY AS AMBASSADOR TO CAIRO, YUGOSLAVS EVIDENTLY ASSUMED THAT NEGOTIATIONS WULD NOT BE RESUMED.

2. IN SEARCH FOR MOTIVES UNDERLYING BELGRADE'S DECISION TO ERECT SIGNS AT BORDER CROSSING POINTS AND THEREBY REACTIVATE TERRITORIAL DISPUTE OVER ZONE B, FONOFF SOURCE REASONED THAT BREAKDOWN OF SECRET TALKS WAS UNDOUBTEDLY MAJOR FACTOR. VOLPE

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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